



HR1006

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The whole people of Illinois - who pay for a
3 General Assembly to plan for the long-term affairs of the State
4 - deserve to have a budget planning document in place that
5 considers medium-term and long-term spending pressures in the
6 setting of State spending priorities; and

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WHEREAS, No budget has been enacted for fiscal year 2016,
8 the fiscal year that began on July 1, 2015; as a result, the
9 overall economic climates of many sections of Illinois are
10 threatened, endangering jobs in the private and public sectors
11 alike; as a result of these threats, local consumption of
12 private-sector goods and services must drop; and

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WHEREAS, Central Illinois, with its traditional
14 orientation towards the maintenance of State of Illinois
15 operations is one of these threatened areas; and

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WHEREAS, With no budget enacted for fiscal year 2016, soon
17 the State of Illinois will have operated under 4 different
18 budgets in the span of 2 years - the fiscal 2015 budget signed
19 by former Governor Quinn, the revised fiscal year 2015 budget
20 containing necessary "fixes" to the original, flawed FY15
21 budget, the fiscal year 2016 non-budgeted State spending cycle
22 being carried out right now under a series of State and federal

1 court orders, and an enacted budget that will cover the
2 remainder of FY16; and

3 WHEREAS, Under the fiscal year 2016 non-budgeted State
4 spending cycle, State spending is continuing without
5 legislative participation, putting Illinois on the financial
6 brink and setting our State on a path to utter financial ruin
7 and economic devastation for our taxpayers; and

8 WHEREAS, Political pressures associated with the 2016
9 election cycle will only increase with time, further tainting
10 the budget process with politics and raising the possibility
11 that, in the absence of corrective action, a repetition of this
12 dismal pattern will occur as the spring 2016 deadline nears to
13 craft and enact a budget for fiscal year 2017; and

14 WHEREAS, The General Assembly needs to re-establish a
15 budget cycle and re-establish the credibility it needs in order
16 to shift its attention to pension reform, property tax relief,
17 crime and violence, the jobs climate, the outmigration from
18 Illinois of younger and highly-educated workers and
19 professionals, and other urgent issues; and

20 WHEREAS, Many states such as Nebraska, Ohio, and Texas, and
21 including the neighboring state of Indiana, practice 2-year
22 spending plans or full-scale biennial budgeting; and

1 WHEREAS, The Constitution of Illinois directs the Governor
2 of Illinois to present an annual budget proposal to the General
3 Assembly, but, as we have come to know all too well, nothing
4 constrains the General Assembly's actual responses to these
5 proposals, and nothing prevents the General Assembly from
6 adopting a planning process that faces the fact that we, as a
7 State, are on the financial brink, and responds to it in a
8 professional manner and in keeping with our identity as
9 legislators and our oaths of office; and

10 WHEREAS, In these times, moving toward a long-term budget
11 planning cycle will enable State agencies performing essential
12 services, third-party service providers whose services are no
13 less essential, and institutions and entities of higher
14 education to obtain the information that their leaders have
15 testified is essential to carrying out their duties; therefore,
16 be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
18 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
19 declare that it is expedient for the General Assembly to adopt
20 a 2-year budget planning document to cover revenues in all of
21 fiscal years 2016 and 2017, take account of moneys already
22 spent, and control spending in the remainder of fiscal year
23 2016 and all of fiscal year 2017; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That this planning document should rely upon an
2 honest estimate, without false promises or shoddy planning, of
3 the actual financial income (especially general funds income)
4 that the State will take in during fiscal years 2016 and 2017;
5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That we urge the Commission on Government
7 Forecasting and Accountability and the Governor's Office of
8 Management and Budget to work together to develop an
9 extraordinary consolidated revenue estimate for fiscal years
10 2016 and 2017, this estimate to be presented to both chambers
11 of the General Assembly no later than 30 days after the
12 adoption of this resolution; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we, the sponsors of this resolution, pledge
14 to use this consolidated 2-year revenue estimate to work with
15 our colleagues to develop a 2-year State budget and financial
16 planning document; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That our goal, as we develop this budget planning
18 document, will be to end the current political cycle of
19 reactive emergency measures and budget court orders; and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 presented to Michael J. Madigan, Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives, John Cullerton, President of the Senate, and
3 Bruce Rauner, Governor.